

Cooperative Mexican fruit fly Eradication Project

San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner
California Department of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

To: MEDIA

Date: December 12, 2002

From: Public Information Office

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Subject: Information Update for media.....4 p.m. Final for Thursday.

Survey

No Mexican fruit fly adults were confirmed today. One new larval site was confirmed today. This site is inside the existing core area. Confirmations to date total 76 adult flies at 26 sites and 8 larval sites to date. All of these detections are within approximately 2½ miles of each other, northwest of Valley Center.

Regulatory

A map of the official Mexican fruit fly quarantine is available at www.cdfa.ca.gov under the "Hot News Items" link. Maps are also available at project office on Valley Center Road. To date, 389 persons have signed compliance agreements. These agreements specify pre-harvest and post-harvest treatments allowing commodities to move in commerce. Hold notices have been placed on properties where adult flies or larvae have been found to prevent the spread of the pest.

Treatment

California Conservation Corps (CCC) staff, under the direction of project personnel, continued removal of fruit at larval properties today. Fruit removal has been completed at two larval sites and continues at the remaining sites. To date, a total of 2111.25 acres in the core area have been treated by growers with assistance by project staff.

Phonebank

Residents with questions may call 800-491-1899. The hotline is staffed from 8:00am to 8:00pm.

Meetings/Other

Growers, packers, shippers and others with questions about regulatory requirements may get information or sign compliance agreements to facilitate crop movement, each weekday (8:00am – 4:00pm) at the project headquarters located at the county maintenance yard just off Valley Center Road, near Cole Grade Road.

News media may reach a project public affairs officer on weekends and after hours by calling the project hotline 1-800-491-1899.